Department for Transport

Traffic Advisory Leaflet 10/99
June 1999

Cycling Initiatives Register

Introduction

The purpose of this leaflet is to draw attention to a new register of cycling initiatives that has been developed by consultants Oscar Faber for the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR). The Register is available on diskette, or as a download from the DETR web site.

Data collection methodology

In order to gather information on cycling initiatives, questionnaires were sent to various organisations, including central and local government, cycling interest groups, major employers, train operating companies, educational establishments, etc. An internet web site and articles in various technical publications were also used to request information.

Respondents were asked to provide information on the following general areas:-

- Contact details
- Type of scheme
- Date the initiative was introduced
- Brief description of the initiative
- Main aims of the scheme
- Summary of lessons learned.

Summary of CIR Initiatives

The CIR currently consists of 275 individual cycle initiatives which can be broadly categorised as follows:-

- Cycle routes
- Secure cycle parking facilities
- Cycle links with public transport
- Travel plans/employee initiatives
- Cycling research.

Background

The publication of the Government's White Paper 'A New Deal for Transport: Better for Everyone' in July 1998 focused attention on the need to encourage more use of the bicycle as a serious alternative to the private car. The White Paper endorsed the National Cycling Strategy, launched in July 1996, with the target of quadrupling cycle use by 2012.

The national Cycling Forum is co-ordinating the implementation of the National Cycling Strategy. Its Marketing Working Group identified the need for a register of cycling initiatives that would provide a means of recording and disseminating information on cycling initiatives.

Until now a formal system for recording cycling initiatives has not been available. Practitioners have relied on word of mouth, attendance at seminars or the media for learning about what others are doing to encourage more cycling. Distribution of the Cycling Initiatives Register should help improve the flow of information.

How to use the register

The Register is a Microsoft Excel database file. [Download Excel database file - 359kb]. It comprises two tables, one containing the contacts and the other the scheme details. A contact reference number, unique to an individual within an organisation, links the tables to each other. Having a contact reference number for individuals within an organisation, instead of a contact number for each organisation, allows the user to know exactly who is responsible for the scheme.

A filter tool allows the user to hide columns that are not required. A 'true' or other specific query can then be applied. For example, a user may

wish to search for 'urban' 'advisory cycle lanes' 'supported by the Millennium Fund'. To do this, the user clicks on the filter arrow situated in the column heading for each of the 3 search strings in turn and changes the option from 'All' to 'True'. The technique is illustrated in Figure 1.

The filtering technique also allows the user to see all other elements of the selected scheme such as the name of the organisation in charge, cost, location, etc.

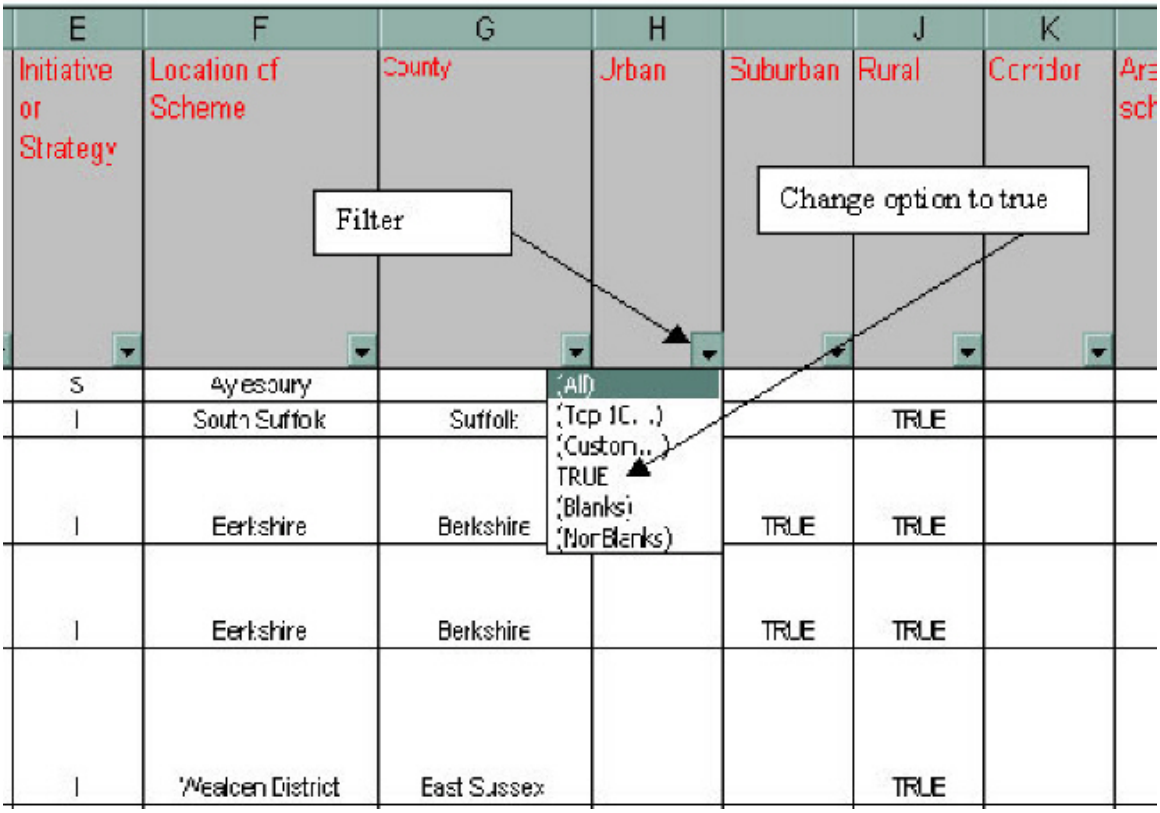

Figure 1: CIR Filter Demonstration

The second technique for searching involves a 'Find' tool. This is used when searching for a specific word within the register. The find tool is selected under 'Edit/Find' from the menu. This displays a drop-down box into which the search string is entered. Figure 2 illustrates the find box.

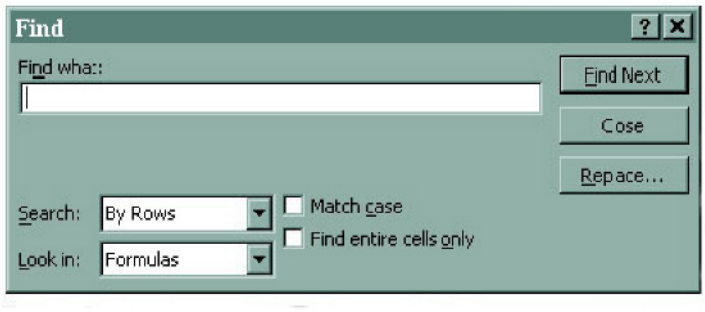

Figure 2: CIR Find Demonstration

Where extra information is available beyond that included directly in the database file, a hyperlink is provided to an associated document in Microsoft Word, with a bookmark location. [Download Word document - 41.5kb].

[Download compressed Zip file containing both the Excel database file and the Word document - 131kb]. It is recommended that these are downloaded into a dedicated directory

System requirements

To access the Cycling Initiatives Register tables with the hyperlink information, Windows 95, Excel Version 5 and Word 97 (or later versions) are required. It is possible to provide the Register for use with earlier versions of these programmes. However, this may result in certain features, such as the hyperlinks, not being accessible.

Availability

A free copy of the Cycling Initiatives Register can be obtained by phoning the DETR on 020 79442983, or by accessing the DETR's web site on:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/tpm/tal/cyclefacilities/cyclinginitiativesregister

Technical enquiries

Contact DETR, CLT Division, on 020 79442983

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